

Currently Pending Claims:

1-60. (canceled)

61. (previously presented) An isolated polypeptide comprising a polypeptide sequence having at least 95% amino acid sequence identity to:

- (a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:523; or
- (b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209487, wherein said polypeptide induces chondrocyte re-differentiation.

62. (previously presented) An isolated polypeptide of Claim 61 comprising a polypeptide sequence having at least 99% amino acid sequence identity to:

- (a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:523;
- (b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:523, lacking its associated signal peptide; or
- (c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209487, wherein said polypeptide induces chondrocyte re-differentiation.

63. (previously presented) An isolated polypeptide comprising:

- (a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:523;
- (b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:523, lacking its associated signal peptide; or
- (c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209487.

64. (currently amended) The isolated polypeptide of Claim 63 comprising the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:523.

65. (currently amended) The isolated polypeptide of Claim 63 comprising the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:523, lacking its associated signal peptide.

66-67. (canceled)

68. (previously presented) The isolated polypeptide of Claim 63 comprising the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209487.

69. (previously presented) A chimeric polypeptide comprising a polypeptide according to Claim 61 or 74 fused to a heterologous polypeptide.

70. (previously presented) The chimeric polypeptide of Claim 69, wherein said heterologous polypeptide is an epitope tag or an Fc region of an immunoglobulin.

71-73. (canceled)

74. (previously presented) An isolated polypeptide comprising a polypeptide sequence having at least 95% amino acid sequence identity to:

- (a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:523; or
- (b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209487, wherein said polypeptide induces proliferation of rat utricular supporting cells.

75. (previously presented) An isolated polypeptide of Claim 74 comprising a polypeptide sequence having at least 99% amino acid sequence identity to:

- (a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:523;
- (b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:523, lacking its associated signal peptide; or
- (c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 209487, wherein said polypeptide induces proliferation of rat utricular supporting cells.